

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being added.

Claims 3 and 10 are currently being amended.

Claims 17 and 18 are currently being canceled.

This amendment cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 3-7 and 10-14 are now pending in this application.

Request for Entry of After-Final Amendment and Reply:

It is respectfully requested that this 'after-final' amendment and reply be considered and entered, since: a) it is believed to place this application in condition for allowance, and b) at the very least, it lessens the number of potential issues for appeal.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 3-7, 10-14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,198,841 to Toyama et al. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims, for at least the reasons given below.

As recited in presently pending independent claims 3 and 10, an image reading device includes correction means (device) for executing a color balance correction and a stray light correction simultaneously with an execution of a shading correction based on the signal data and the white document data stored in storage means (device). That is, the claimed image reading device performs a color balance correction and a stray light correction simultaneously with a

shading correction of plural signals that are photoelectric converted by color photoelectric conversion means (color CCD sensor).

Further, presently pending independent claims 3 and 10 recite that "the correction means (device) executes the stray light correction by correcting a difference between the signal data and the white document data which are stored in the storage means (device)". This limitation is supported by the description on page 12, line 23 to page 13, line 9, and page 17, line 25 to page 18, line 12 of the present specification.

That is, the description on page 12, line 23 to page 13, line 9 of the present specification recites that "The RGB stray light correction is executed in order to correct a difference between RGB signals obtained by reading a white document (not shown) comprising a document in colors equivalent to the shading correction plate 32 placed on the document table 12 in advance an RGB signals obtained by reading the shading correction plate 32 at its mounted position when adjusting the color scanner 10. In other words, the RGB stray light correction is to correct the read values (RS, GS, BS) of the shading correction plate 32 so as to substitute them with the white document read values (RW, GW, BW) on the document table 12."

Toyama et al. discloses a color image processor including a light irradiating device (an image scanner 30), a color CCD sensor (a color sensor 36), a white shading correction plate (a white plate 38) and a storage device (a memory). Further, the color image processor of Toyama et al. includes a shading correction section 102, a line correction section 104 and a gamma correction/color balance section 150. However, Toyama et al. does not disclose or suggest the computation of a stray light correction that corresponds to a difference between the signal data and the white document data, as recited in presently pending independent claims 3 and 10.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claims 3 and 10, as well as the claims that depend from these claims, are patentable over the cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Since all of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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